

C.L.A.S.S. Dog training

Play style assessment

Goal:

To determine what game(s) the dog enjoys playing, and to recommend a game that most staff & volunteers will use when playing with the dog. Determining the dog's favorite game(s) allows the person and the dog to get the most out of each play/training session.

General rules:

- Begin the assessment with retriever +/- followed by tug, chase, and nose work games, If a dog loves retrieving, you don't need to try the other games.
 - Try retrieve with a ball first; if there is no interest; try the game with a plush squeaky toy,
 - Try tug with a rope toy first; if there is no interest; try the game with a plush squeaky toy.

- If the dog does not drop an item when asked, ask the dog to 'drop it', and then show the dog a tasty treat to encourage the dog to drop it.

Retrieving is usually the preferred game, if the dog enjoys it. Retrieve is safer (less risk of the dog accidentally or intentionally mouthing your hand with this game) and is also good to play because many adopters also enjoy playing retrieve with their dogs.

- Tug or chase games may be used as the preferred game for a dog that loves to tug or chase things, but does not bring them back when asked.
 - Many fearful dogs will not be interested in most games. Try the nosework game with these dogs.
 - You may wish to play other games other than the 'preferred game' with the dog; oftentimes it is beneficial to play other games which allow you to interact with the dog in a different way,
- Record the preferred game on the dog's kennel, and whether treats are needed to successfully play the game, so that all staff and volunteers know that this game is the best game to play with the dog, at this time.